

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-07 H-02 PM-04 SS-15 SP-02 ACDA-05

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

S E C R E T STATE 011673

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, MASS, XG

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENTAL STUDY OF THIRD WORLD CONVENTIONAL
ARMS SUPPLY RESTRAINTS

1. IN RESPONSE TO INCREASING CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN, DEPART-
MENT HAS BEGUN IN-HOUSE STUDY OF THE PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS
FOR LIMITATIONS ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS TO THIRD

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WORLD. SECRETARY RECEIVED IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED OCTOBER

30, 1975 FROM SENATOR CULVER AND REPRESENTATIVE SEIBERLING CO-SIGNED BY 27 SENATORS AND 68 REPRESENTATIVES OUTLINING THEIR CONCERNS OVER ARMS TRANSFER. CULVER/SEIBERLING LETTER PROPOSED US INITIATIVE TO CONVENE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF MAJOR ARMS SUPPLIERS TO DISCUSS GUIDELINES FOR ARMS SALES. IN HIS RESPONSE NOVEMBER 28, SECRETARY NOTED THAT PROBLEM INVOLVED BOTH SUPPLIERS AND RECIPIENTS, AND 'AS ENORMOUSLY COMPLEX, GIVEN ATTITUDES OF BOTH. RESPONSE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT DEPARTMENT WOULD CONDUCT STUDY OF POSSIBLE LIMITATIONS ON THE TRAFFIC IN CONVENTIONAL ARMS. STUDY IS NOW IN ITS PRELIMINARY STAGE AND IS BEING ORGANIZED ON A REGION-BY-REGION BASIS. FOR MOST REGIONS, STUDY WILL FOCUS ON RECIPIENT ATTITUDES AND PRACTICES. FOR SOVIET/EAST EUROPEAN REGION, FOCUS WOULD BE ON NATIONAL ROLES AND ATTITUDES AS SUPPLIERS TO THIRD WORLD.

2. WE HAVE ALREADY ASKED POSTS IN NATO AND OTHER WEST EUROPEAN SUPPLIER CAPITALS TO PROVIDE DETAILED COMMENTS ON STUDY. WE RECOGNIZE THAT SOVIET AND EASTERN EUROPEAN POSTS LACK RESOURCES TO PROVIDE EXHAUSTIVE RESPONSE. WE WOULD HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT POSTS WOULD AT MINIMUM PROVIDE US WITH READING ON HOST GOVERNMENTS' MOTIVATIONS FOR ARMS TRANSFERS AND/OR RECEPTIVITY TO ANY INITIATIVE AIMED AT RESTRAINING CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS QUANTITATIVELY OR QUALITATIVELY, ON WIDE GEOGRAPHICAL SCALE OR IN PARTICULAR THIRD WORLD REGIONS OR SUB-REGIONS. YOU SHOULD NOT RPT NOT APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENTS. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ASSESSMENT BY POSTS OF HOST COUNTRY ATTITUDES ON WHETHER THERE ARE SOME APPROACHES OR FORMS OF ARMS TRANSFER RESTRAINTS THAT WOULD BE MORE ACCEPTABLE THAN OTHERS. ALSO HOW DO ADDRESSEES BELIEVE HOST GOVERNMENTS WOULD REACT TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES OF SUPPLIERS OR SUPPLIERS AND RECIPIENTS ON ISSUE? WOULD THEY BE RECEPTIVE TO OTHER FORA? DO YOU FORESEE ANY NEW FACTORS OVER NEXT FIVE YEARS THAT MIGHT SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGE SUPPLY POLICIES?

3. FOR ADDRESSEES OTHER THAN MOSCOW: TO WHAT DEGREE DOES HOST COUNTRY ACT AS FRONT FOR SOVIETS IN THIRD WORLD

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ARMS SALES? DOES TRANSFER OF WEAPONS TO NON-WP COUNTRIES ADVERSELY AFFECT HOST COUNTRY'S MILITARY POSTURE? IS THERE ANY INDICATION THAT SOVIET TRANSFERS - PARTICULARLY IF THEY INVOLVE MODERN WEAPONS SYSTEMS NOT IN HOST COUNTRY'S INVENTORY - ARE RESENTED BY HOST COUNTRY? KISSINGER

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